

ONTARIO DX ASSOCIATION

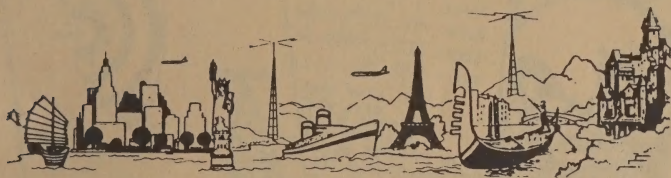
MONITORING THE WORLD VIA RADIO SINCE 1975

Welcome to this brief introduction to the interesting hobby of international radio listening, and how the Ontario DX Association can help you to get more from it.

When you hear the words "Shortwave Radio", what comes to mind may be the Ham radio operator who has invested in expensive equipment and must have sufficient technical knowledge to obtain his/her licence. In our case, we are concerned with shortwave radio listening (SWL for short). It is a hobby that is open to everyone at relatively little cost and requires no licence. In every country of the world, thousands of people tune in daily to radio broadcasts from other countries to listen to programs of news, commentary, culture, arts, sports, religion, and more.

You too can discover the pleasure and enjoyment of listening to the news and cultural programs of another country, providing you with a unique perspective on the lives of the people living there.

When you know when and where to listen, it becomes fascinating to sit back in the comfort of your home and tune in far-off countries. The term "DX" is a hobby abbreviation for distance, quite appropriate when you consider that you are listening to the world.



Who uses Shortwave Radio...

Many broadcasters are associated with the government of their country, but there are several, including sectarian missionary services, that are privately owned. Regardless, their purpose for using radio is the same: to get their message to the people of the Earth. To do so requires the use of many languages. One of the most popular languages used in International Shortwave Broadcasting is English, and many of the world's broadcasters produce and transmit English language programs for the North American audience.

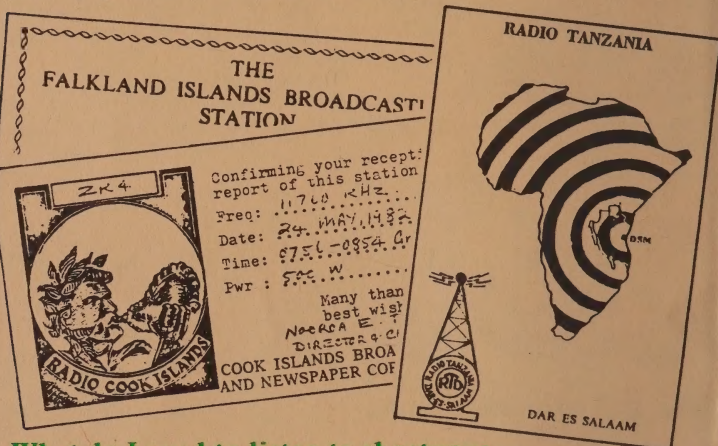
The larger countries have both the means and the desire to get their messages out, so you will notice that you will be able to hear them in more places and with a much stronger signal. Of course, that means that many of the smaller and more distant countries will be harder to receive and that brings us to one facet of the hobby.

For many listeners these weaker stations are of primary interest because the poorer signals present a greater challenge. It doesn't require better equipment, in most cases to receive them, just patience and technique.

This is where the Ontario DX Association (ODXA) can be of help. With so much happening on the airwaves it can be confusing, so the club publishes a monthly magazine, *DX ONTARIO (DXO)* which contains broadcast schedules, station news, equipment reviews and articles such as listening tips written by club members.

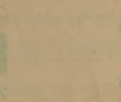
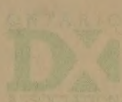
There is a special relationship between International Broadcasters and the listeners. The listeners can write to the broadcasters and provide information such as where and when the program was heard, the quality of signal, program contents and any comments. You may be surprised to hear your letter read on the air to the world!

This information is useful to stations, and if the details of your letter match their program log, they will send you a letter and/or card verifying your reception of their broadcast. This verification card is known in the hobby as a QSL, and it will usually have a picture on the front along with verification information on the back. Many people in the hobby specialise in collecting QSL cards. *DXO* has a column devoted to this aspect of the hobby. Many stations will send along more than just a QSL, including items such as broadcast schedules, tourist brochures and magazines, cassette tapes of music, pennants and posters, and even language courses. The letter that you may receive could be a personal note from the host or producer of a program you may have commented on. Shortwave listeners are truly special to most International Broadcasters.

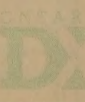
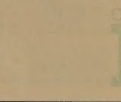
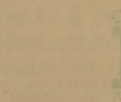


What do I need to listen to shortwave...

It is not necessary to spend \$1,000 to get started in this hobby, or even half that. A "good" portable receiver can be had for \$150 to \$300 and can provide fine service for most SWL needs. Two companies whose products have seen large acceptance in the hobby are Sony and Panasonic. They may not have all the features of the more expensive radios, but they will allow you to explore this fascinating hobby for a modest investment. Other manufacturers, less widely known to the general public, make sophisticated receivers for the more advanced listener. By no means do you have to buy a radio that is only for shortwave. You may have noticed that some portable AM/FM radios have a part of the dial marked SW1, SW2, or similar. This type of radio may provide performance that is adequate to get you started listening to international shortwave broadcasts. As your knowledge and interest in the hobby grows, you may find that your receiver requirements may change.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

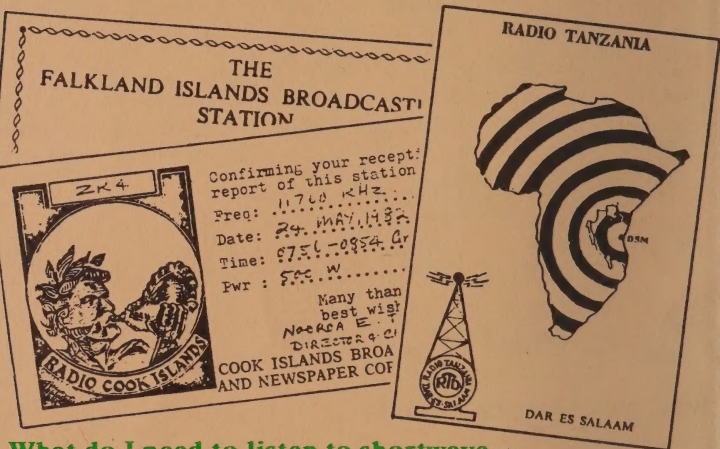


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What about an antenna...

Just as it isn't necessary to have any complicated controls on your radio, the antenna that you use can be simple as well. Most of the inexpensive radios will have an extendable whip antenna that will meet most of the needs of the beginning SWL, but for very little expense and effort an external length of wire can be connected to a jack provided on these radios for that purpose.

Even a modest outdoor antenna can provide improved reception of those harder-to-hear stations, so it is no surprise that the discussion and erection of many types of antennas can figure prominently in the hobby. Again, this need not be expensive or complicated.

Information on antennas, such as books are available at radio supply stores. Antenna projects and technical advice appear in *DXO* and similar publications. Antenna kits are available at most radio supply outlets.

Shortwave radio clubs...

There are always many things happening on the domestic and international broadcast bands, and new listeners are quickly impressed with the proliferation of stations on the bands, and that it is not easy to keep current with frequently changing station schedules. That is why there are clubs for the active shortwave listener in Canada, United States, Europe, and other parts of the world. They publish monthly newsletters and bulletins as well as other helpful information for the hobbyist.

Belonging to a club allows the SWL to gain knowledge and to share information and experiences with new-found friends. As mentioned earlier, this is where the ODXA comes in. The ODXA is, as are most of the world's other clubs, a nonprofit organization run by volunteers, so the annual membership fee, which includes the newsletter or bulletin, is quite reasonable and affordable to most listeners.

About the ODXA...

The Ontario DX Association (ODXA) is a club for radio listeners who live in the province of Ontario. It was organized in 1974 to fill the need for a club that would concentrate on organizing local SWL's by holding meetings, and publishing a regular bulletin that would contain listening tips from SWL's within the province.

Meetings for ODXA members take place regularly in Toronto and several have been held in other cities. Notice of upcoming meetings are made in the events calendar of *DXO*. Meetings usually include guest speakers, films or slide presentations, seminars and discussions, as well as the opportunity to talk and socialize. The Toronto-area meetings begin with an informal session for newcomers to the hobby.

There are many special events in which to participate, such as a semi-annual "DX-pedition", where listeners and their families all get together at a camp outside the city for a weekend. Much listening is done, of course, and many lasting friendships are formed.

Several times a year, members volunteer to man an ODXA booth at the various hobby shows that take place. Again, the opportunity exists to learn more about your hobby and to make new friends as you tell others about the interesting hobby in which you participate.

Application for Membership in the ONTARIO DX ASSOCIATION

(incorporated under the laws of Ontario)

P.O. Box 161, Station A, Willowdale, Ontario M2N 5S8, Canada

Name _____ Telephone () _____

Mailing Address _____

The following information is optional.

Occupation _____ Date of Birth _____

Amateur Radio _____ Electronic Mail _____
Callsign _____ Address _____

May we list your name and address in our Membership Directory? _____

What bands or services do you monitor? _____

Years of involvement in the hobby? _____

How did you learn of the ODXA? _____

What equipment do you use? _____

Where did you purchase your last receiver? _____

Please list any personal computer you use _____

Membership Dues

Please check boxes below.	Canada (C\$)	U.S.A. (US\$)	Overseas (C\$ and US\$)
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 year	\$30.76 (28.75+2.01 GST)	\$26.00	C\$41.00/US\$34.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 years	\$55.64 (52.00+3.64 GST)	\$47.00	not available
<input type="checkbox"/> 3 years	\$85.60 (80.00+5.60 GST)	\$72.00	not available
Send DX ONTARIO as a <input type="checkbox"/> a magazine or <input type="checkbox"/> on tape.			

GST Registration # 123001984

Make payable to "Ontario DX Association". Payment may be made in Canadian or U.S. dollars.

Mail completed application to either:

P.O. Box 161, Station A, Willowdale, Ontario M2N 5S8

or

Harold Riddell, 2844 S. Union St., Rochester, NY 14624

More about *DX ONTARIO*...

DX ONTARIO is the monthly publication of the ODXA first published in February 1975. Emphasis has always been placed on quality rather than quantity of information. Over the years there have been many improvements, and we have found that quantity came naturally after quality was given priority.

DX ONTARIO is currently 80 pages each month, and covers the shortwave and mediumwave (AM) scenes with a number of regular columns including VHF/UHF. Also included are station profiles, news, and schedules, reception reports sent in by members, as well as a column where members report on QSL's they have received. There are also member profiles, a "For Sale/Wanted" column, a member mailbag, equipment reviews, technical tips, and editorials. A comprehensive "centerfold" page lists major broadcasts in English.

All of the articles in *DX ONTARIO* are written by members and most columns are compiled with information provided by the membership. Submissions are encouraged from all members, whether you are a new-comer to the hobby or an experienced SWL!

Schedules and related information are updated monthly, and the various columns will guide you and teach you about the many aspects of this hobby.

DX ONTARIO is far from being the only reference material for the SWL. There are many other publications available that provide detailed information on stations around the world, including their broadcast schedules, station addresses and the names of personnel.

As your interest and experience in the hobby grows, you will discover that there are many specialized publications covering specific aspects of radio listening.

More about the ODXA and its services...

- hobby related publications available for purchase by members
- ODXA has its own amateur station - VE3ODX
- "*DX ONTARIO* on tape" - a special service for the sight impaired listener
- "DX-Change" - a hotline for listening tips (updated weekly). Try it at (416) 299-ODXA

The club is directed by a Board of Directors, elected by the membership. The Board is responsible for appointing club officers and *DX ONTARIO* editors. Remember, all officers and staff members are unpaid volunteers, and the ODXA is a nonprofit organization working just for you.

The Ontario DX Association is a dynamic and growing club of radio hobbyists and we would welcome you to join us. We invite you to complete, and return to the address indicated, the membership application form.

We look forward to hearing from you.

ONTARIO DX ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 161, Station A, Willowdale, Ontario M2N 5S8

Telephone: (416) 853-3169 [Voice or Fax]